

Atty. Docket No.: 59036-249737

PATENT

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 34, 35, 37-44, 46-51, 61, 62 and 64-78 are allowable.

The Applicant proposes herein an amendment to claim 52 to include the feature acknowledged by the Examiner to be lacking from the prior art of record and conform claim 52 to the form indicated to be allowable. Claims 1, 3-6, 11-13, 28, 29 and 54 have been cancelled without prejudice. New independent "Beauregard" claims 79-83 have been added corresponding to independent method claims 34, 43, 52, 61 and 70, respectively. Therefore, claims 34, 35, 37-44, 46-51, 52, 53, 55-62 and 63-83 are present for examination.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 55-59 as being indefinite. In view of the proposed amendment incorporating claim 54 into claim 52, the phrases in question are now thought to have proper antecedent basis.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 11-13, 28, 29, 52, 53 and 55-59 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,999,918 of Williams et al. ("Williams"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Williams. However, for the sake of expediting issuance of the present application, the Applicant has cancelled and/or amended these claims without prejudice and reserves the right to pursue claims of similar breadth in one or more continuation applications.

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New Claims

Five new independent "Beauregard" claims, i.e., claims 79-83 have been added corresponding to independent method claims 34, 43, 52, 61 and 70, respectively. No new matter has been added by these new claims. Support for such "Beauregard" claims can be found in the specification as originally filed in at least paragraph [0048].

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The undersigned agrees the Williams, Edness and Baird references are deficient individually and in combination with respect to the "identifying a relationship" limitation of the allowed claims. However, the undersigned believes one or more other limitations of the allowed claims provide independent basis for allowability of the claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the objections and rejections raised in the Office action have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued for claims 34, 35, 37-44, 46-51, 52, 53, 55-62 and 63-83.

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INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 607-3633 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

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No fee is believed to be necessary for entry of this paper. In the event that any such fee is necessary for the entry of this paper, please charge to our Deposit Account No. 06-0029 any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be requested to enter this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

FAEGRE & BENSON LLP
CUSTOMER NO.: 35657Date: March 21, 2005By: 

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